

The State CSBG Director's Digest

February 17, 2010

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NASCSP's Mission:

"Building capacity in States to respond to poverty issues."

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The State CSBG Director's Digest is a daily publication that brings you timely information about funding opportunities, resources, events, and publications that may be of interest to the CSBG network.

EVENTS

The Scouting Report: President Obama and Education

Wednesday, February 17; 12:30 - 1:30 PM

Education is among the "winners" in President Obama's proposed federal budget this year, with a \$3 billion boost in funding, and a focus on reforms aimed at increasing student achievement, improving community colleges and making college more affordable through tax credits and Pell Grants. Brookings senior fellow Russ Whitehurst says Obama's proposals have been received with a mixture of praise and criticism, and achieving all the suggested reforms will be difficult. Whitehurst argues that President Obama will need to prioritize his ideas and focus on what is most important. [Learn more...](#)

RESOURCES

Podcast: The January Employment Report and What It Means for the Economy

February 16, 2010

A discussion of January's employment report and what it shows us about the state of the economy. [Learn more...](#)

Credit Card Protections Take Effect Monday But Loopholes and Abuses Persist

February 17, 2010

On Monday, February 22, the long-awaited - and long-needed - protections of the Credit Card Accountability, Responsibility and Disclosure (CARD) Act go into effect. The Credit CARD Act, passed in May of last year, puts an end to some of the worst abuses by credit card companies. Even after the Credit CARD Act takes effect, however, consumers will be vulnerable to other abuses as well as new schemes devised by companies to get around these protections. These abuses and evasions point to the need for Congress to pass legislation establishing a new Consumer Financial Protection Agency. [Learn more...](#)

PUBLICATIONS

The Federal Government Should Invest in Disconnected Youth

CLASP

Each year, nearly half a million youth drop out of high school. Currently, about 3.8 million young people between ages 16 and 24 are out of school and out of work. This problem disproportionately affects low-income minority communities where high school dropout rates exceed 50 percent, where youth unemployment is extremely high, where gang participation and youth violence is on the rise, and where approximately

one-third of all young black men are connected to the criminal justice system. [Learn more...](#)

Who Benefits From Federal Subsidies for Free and Reduced Price School Meals?

By Zoë Neuberger and Tina Fritz Namian

In anticipation of Congressional reauthorization of the federal child nutrition programs, some have called for increased federal reimbursement rates for school meals to improve their nutritional quality. Under current rules, however, federal payments for free and reduced price meals are not used solely to underwrite the cost of producing those meals. Research conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has consistently shown that in some school food programs, the federal reimbursements for free and reduced price meals appear to subsidize meals provided to higher income children and foods that are offered outside the federal school meal programs, such as less nutritious snack foods and individual items in vending machines. [Learn more...](#)

Thank you for reading the State CSBG Director's Digest! We are committed to providing you with relevant and helpful information. If you have any comments or requests regarding this publication, please [contact us!](#)

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